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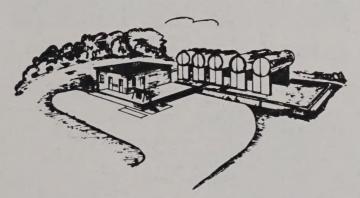
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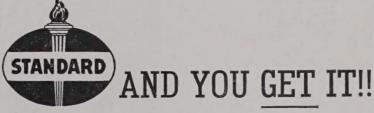


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To all the people who have loved and lived in Grayville, the present people of Grayville send Greetings and Good Wishes in this our Centennial Year.

No Person—No Business—has survived the past 100 years—Only our City Government—Our Churches and Our Schools have lived so long and grown with the years.

To all our city officials—To all our School and Church Teachers and Leaders—past and present—to all who have worked to make our Centennial Celebration—and to all people everywhere who have loved and called Grayville—"My Home Town"—we dedicate this Centennial Programme.

I have tried to convey as simply as possible, a feeling of Grayville "Thru the Years", a feeling of movement, a blending of the old with the new. The layout is in the general shape of an oil derrick and, along with the black background, is symbolical of the Oil Industry that has become an integral part of our community and which is responsible for much of the progress made in the last twenty years. The three corners of the tri-angle are symbolical of the three settlements, Bonpas, Florence and Oxford, that were here as far back as 1810 and which became Grayville in 1855, the year that our city charter was granted by the state. The background color in the triangle is suggested by the gray in Grayville and the bright pink is in the festive mood of our Centennial Celebration.

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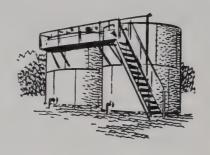
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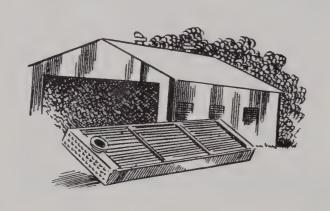
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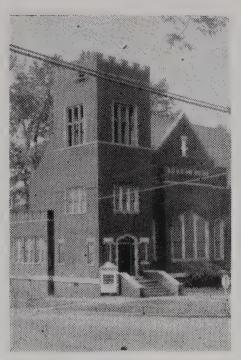


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GRAYVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Gravville Presb v t e r i a n Church, one of the early religious organizations the city, was originally organized as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church one hundred and five years ago. On June 27, 1850, a group of citizens -Isaac Hamilton, Susan G. Hamilt o n, H e n ry Phelps, Elizabeth J. Phelps, Orville Goodrich, Jane M. Goodrich, David N. Hamilton

and Lydia G. Hamilton—perfected the organization. The Rev. William Finley was the officiating minister and he later became the first pastor of the church. For a number of years services were held in the Primitive Baptist church and during the year of 1868 a church building was elected at the corner of Court and South streets, where for 38 years services were conducted.

During the year 1906, under the pastorate of the Rev. John Welsh, the congregation voted to merge with the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, of which it is now a member.

The imposing structure which now serves as a meeting place was erected in 1915, during the pastorate of the Rev. R. G. Shafer.

The one hundredth anniversary of the church was observed on August 27, 1950. Rev. John Welsh and Rev. J. S. Farrell, former pastors, assisted in the program with the Rev. George Clementson as the regular pastor.

Present Pastor of the church is the Rev. Jack Mc-Intyre, who is also pastor of the Union church, located southwest of the city.



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HISTORY OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF GRAYVILLE



The First Methodist Church of Grayville was organized with 20 members in 1837 by Rev. Carhan in a log cabin where the present Christian Church now stands. Then in 1838 a frame building for the church was built on that same site. In 1852 still another building was built on the same location, 30 ft. by 40 ft. at the cost of \$1,350. The building was enlarged in 1868, making it 30 ft. by 68 ft., with additional cost of \$1,300. The present location of church on North Street was given to church by Mrs. J. B. Jolly, who turned first spade of dirt for new church which was dedicated in 1912. Rev. J. G. Harmon was pastor at the time. The first funeral in the new church was that of his wife.

The first regular organist was Mrs. Eastwood, the late Malcolm Eastwood's mother. J. R. Eastwood was one of the first trustees of the church.

The first convert in the church was Miss J. E. Harmon in 1843.

In 1882 the first missionary society was organized with 31 members with the late Bob Prunty's mother as president. That year the church had 90 members. For many years there were three women's organizations—the Foreign Missionary Society, Home Missionary Society, and the Ladies' Aid. In 1940 these three were combined into the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

In 1904 The Browns Chapel charge with 76 members was taken off Crossville circuit and added to the Grayville charge but was removed from this charge in 1953.

In 1905 the minister's salary was \$1,000; now, \$4,500.

In 1908 the Epworth League installed electric lights in the church. For many years the church maintained youth groups known as Junior League and Epworth League, which were combined under the Methodist Youth Fellowship about 1940.

In 1910 the members started collecting money for the new church which was dedicated in 1912. Mrs. Mary C. Westfall's Sunday school class of girls paid the first pledge.

About 1913 Bishop Quayle spoke in this church on the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde theme. In this year the Carnegie pipe organ was installed.

Probably the oldest person who is a member of the church is Mr. George Matthews, who is now living in Mt. Vernon. And probably the oldest known member is Mrs. Hattie Melrose, who joined the church in 1894.

Since the organization of the church in 1837 with 20 members, there have been 64 ministers serve this church, which now has 259 members.

The first known parsonage was the present Lechner home on Highway 1 at southedge of the city. Then about 1900 the parsonage was located 306 W. Mill Street until the present one adjoining the church was built in 1939.

The men's organization was formed in 1950 with 13 charter members and Wesley Aker as president.

The church has had a Sunday school department ever since its organization with a record attendance of 263 and present enrollment of 241. At present a new educational building is being built on the south side of the church.

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THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



The First Christian Church was organized in 1840 with seven charter members: Mr. Daniel Bulkley, Mrs. Daniel Bulkley, Mrs. Jeremiah Ruth, Mrs. Jeremiah Ruth, Martha Lumm, Mrs. B. W. Kenner, Mrs. Sarah Mills.

The first building erected in 1844 on Block 9 lot 12 near Dr. Kash home later moved to Block 22, lot 7 now the residence of Harvey Westfall. In 1872 a new church was built at the corner of Mill and Middle.

In 1927 this building was sold to Aaron Pearson and a modern church building was bought from the Evangelical Church Board on Block 21, lot 2 now known as the First Christian Church. A new addition has been made this summer 30 x 50 for more Sunday School Class rooms. Dedicated July 31, 1955.

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A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church was organized, Sept. 5th, 1895. At this same meeting Bro. Levi T. E. Johnson, and Bro. J. C. Williams were elected messengers to their local association.

In 1898 the church ordained Bro. G. T. Finn to the Gospel ministry, and hired him as their first pastor.

Rev. Samuel Kirkland held a revival meeting in a tent, and there were added to the church 202 new members. During this meeting the church was reorganized, and Sister Mary Feverston is the only living charter member.

Bro. F. C. Naney was the first church clerk, followed by Bro. J. E. Feverston, who served for 18 years.

The following brethren were ordained as the first

deacons; John Appman Sr.; John Feverston, and F. C. Naney.

The building committee who purchased the site, saw over the erection were, John Appman; W. W. Davis; J. E. Feverston; Ed. Glaubensklee; L. J. Mossberger; F. C. Naney, and William Ramsey.

After the revival closed and up to the time that the church building was built the members met in the opera house on Sundays, and mid week services were held in the home of some member.

First S. S. Supt. was F. C. Naney. S. S. Secretary, was Miss Zella Johnson; S. S. Organist was Miss Chloe Ramsey, Janitor was William Ramsey, and Mrs. Mary Feverston taught the beginners.

Rev. D. F. Marlin, was pastor from 1908-1916: 1926-1945; Rev. J. S. Bright, from 1916-1919; Rev. Kunath, 1921-1922; Rev. Hall and Rev. Owens, 1919-1921; Rev. L. M. Lappin 1923-1925; Rev. Stone, 1946-1951; Rev. Yow, 1951-1953; Rev. Gill was called Feb. 10th, 1954.

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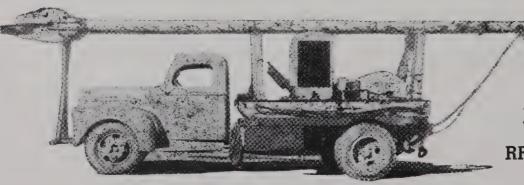


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The Grayville Church of Christ was organized in February of 1916 when a group of Bible students began holding services in the home of one of the members in Grayville for the study of New Testament scripture.

In April of the same year W. F. Mathis of Vienna was called to conduct a meeting which was held in the Grayville Opera House. Later in the same year the Primitive Baptist meeting house at the corner of Court and South Streets was rented and

services were held there regularly until 1917.

On Jan. 28, 1917 W. J. Taylor and J. J. Spencer purchased the building at the corner of Third and Mill Streets from the German Evangelical Church congregation, and in Sept. of 1919 Mr. Taylor and Mr. Spencer deeded the church property to the congregation of the Church of Christ of Grayville, Illinois, and services have been held at this place since the above date.



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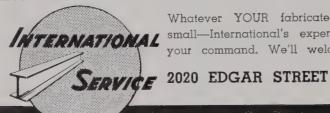
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FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

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In the early part of the year 1919, a Rev. S. S. Grant and Rev. Nolan Davis of Pickneyville, Illinois came to Grayville and conducted a series of Evangelistic Meetings. This was the beginning of the Apostolic Faith Church which is known today as the Full Gospel Church. In 1927, the church was organized; in 1929, the members purchased a lot of ground at 936 North Court Street and built a small church on this newly-purchased lot.

Through the years as the congregation continued to grow and the church prospered, they decided to build a new church, and the cornerstone of the new church was laid in August, 1946, and the church completed soon after. Several years later, in 1950, a new church parsonage was built beside the church while Rev. Glen Barnes was the pastor. After Rev. Barnes' resignation in September, on December 15, 1954, Rev. Paul Kloepper, formerly of Cora, Illinois, accepted the pastorage of the church and was officially installed in a special service in January, 1955.

Many changes have taken place in the history of our church since its beginning in 1919. Today we have a Children's Department, Young People's Department, Ladies Auxiliary, and Regular Services during the week. As a member of the United Pentecostal Churches, we help sponsor foreign and home missionaries, a Children's Orphanage in Tupelo, Miss., and various Bible Training Colleges for young student ministers throughout the United States.

There is still much work to be done in our local church, and we, the members of the Full Gospel Church, hope that in the future years, we can do more to improve the property of our church to make it a bigger and better landmark in the city of Grayville. "A Community without a church is a community without God."

We are happy to be a part of Grayville, and to participate as one of the churches in the Coming Centennial Celebration of our Community.

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The Order of the Eastern Star

The Order of the Eastern Star in Grayville is in the neighborhood of 100 years old. A Chapter was formed here about 1865. The meetings were held in a building on Main Street. The lighting was by kerosene lamps, and they were thought to be the cause of a fire that destroyed the building. All records and furnishings were destroyed at that time. A few years later another Chapter was formed which also met in a building on Main Street. No information can be obtained about what happened to this Chapter, but we do know that it ceased to be. What information we have was given us by Mrs. Margaret Lindsey

before her death in 1945. She became a member of the first Chapter when she was 18 years of age which would be in the year of 1873. Then she was a Charter member of the second Chapter and a member of the present Chapter.

The present Chapter, Sheba Chapter No. 722, was formed on August 26, 1912, with the twenty-five members necessary to form a Chapter. A fire damaged the Masonic Temple where the meetings were held in 1948. Most of the records and some of the furnishings were saved and meetings were held in another building until the present Masonic Temple was re-built. Sheba Chapter is now a thriving Chapter with 227 members.

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History of Camp Rebekah No. 721

Camp Rebekah Lodge No. 721 of Grayville, Illinois was first organized December 15th, 1909. The meeting was held on Friday night, upstairs in the Eastwood building on North and Middle Streets. The ground floor now being occupied by Ramsey's Market. After the meeting a banquet was served in the basement of the old Christian Church which was located on the corner of Mill and Middle Streets.

The West Salem Rebekah lodge put on the degree work for the meeting. Mrs. Keturah Clayton was the first Noble Grand, now deceased. Rosa Johnson, Vice Grand. Fifty seven members joined this lodge and were called the Charter members. One charter member, Mrs. Rosa Johnson, is still an active member and has been very helpful in compiling the history of this lodge.

The lodge met in their first hall for about two years, then moved to what was the Helck building at the corner of North and Court Streets. It remained there until it was burned out, moving to what is now the Kershaw building on North Street, In or about the year of 1917 they moved to what is now their regular hall, and remained there until 1939.

On March 23rd, 1938 the District Meeting of No. 29 was held here. This being the home of the District President, Sister Clara Johnson.

Membership became so small they were forced to

give up the hall and meet in the Dress Shop of Mattie Spruell (deceased) until she moved her dress shop to her home. We then met at the home of Mrs. Anna B. Seil (deceased). At this time we had 13 members, but we kept our dues and state tax paid and so were able to hold our Charter.

In June of 1946 our State President visited us and we held a banquet for her at the home of Mrs. Seil. She was pleased that we were holding together. At this time we were trying to find a hall for a meeting place, so our good friends the Masons rented us their hall for our two meetings each month. In 1947 we were again burned out. Mr. Bradshaw let the Masons use the upstairs of his building on the corner of North and Court Streets, and we were invited to meet there too.

In 1949 we moved to our now present hall, which we rented from the American Legion. We have grown in membership, by hard work, and now have the hall to ourselves. We have redecorated our hall and are very proud of it. We now have 72 members, the greater part of them being active. We enjoy suppers and parties given frequently and entertain other lodges and our District Officers each year.

Mrs. Madge Johnson from Harrisburg, Ill., has held our School of Instruction for over 20 years.

Our present Noble Grand is Eva Robinson, Vice Grand, Pearl Hockman, and Secretary-Treasurer, Thelma Compton.

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GRAYVILLE CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

- 1:00 P.M. Parade of Bands, Floats, Queens, Old Cars, Costumes, Etc.
- 3:00 P.M. Dedication of the new Elementary School building at the West End of North Street. O. H. Roberts, Jr., of Evansville will be the speaker.
- 7:30 P.M. Crowning of Queen at the Grayville Athletic Field.
- 7:45 P.M. Centennial Pageant "A Century on the Banks of the Wabash" from the early part of 1700, when the French were frozen in at Bonpas down to the present day . . . with fire works built into the program.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

- 2:00 P.M. On the river front East North Street will be a water carnival by the Grayville Boat Club.

 Music
- 7:30 P.M. Pageant at the main stage at Grayville Athletic Field with fire works . . .

MONDAY, LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH CENTENNIAL COSTUME CONTEST

2:00 P.M.

- 1. Oldest woman in Centennial Costume-Pin.
- 2. Best dressed Lady in Centennial Costume-Pr. Gold Vases.
- 3. Former Resident in Centennial Costume coming the greatest distance-Ball Point Pen.
- 4. Mother with most daughters in Centennial Costume-Candle Sticks-Center Piece.
- 5. Best dressed couple in costume—Sterling Silver Spoon.
- 6. Best dressed girl in Centennial Costume-age 1-6-Locket.
- 7. Best dressed girl in Centennial Costume—age 6-10—I. D. Bracelet.
- 8. Best dressed girl in Centennial Costume-age 10-14-Jewel Case.
- 9. Best dressed girl in Centennial Costume—age 14-16—Pearl Necklace.
- 10. Best dressed boy in Centennial Costume—age 1-6-Knife, Fork, Spoon.
- 11. Best dressed boy in Centennial Costume—age 7-10—Watch.
- 12. Best dressed boy in Centennial Costume-age 10-14-I. D. Bracelet.
- 13. Former family coming greatest distance in Centennial Costume-Electric Clock.

BEARD CONTEST

2:30 P.M.

- 1. Best Mustache
- 2. Youngest Man with Beard and Mustache.
- 3. Oldest Man with Beard and Mustache.
- 4. Longest Beard.
- 5. Best Hobo type (Untrimmed).
- 6. Most Natural colors.
- 7. Best Beard and Mustache with period costume.
- 8. Most distinguished Beard.
- 3:00 P.M. Pole Dance. Charles Neumaster and group of Evansville, Ind., dancing horses . . . Other Attractions and Music.
- 7:30 P.M. Pageant with mammoth display of fireworks.
- The Riley Amusement Rides and Carnival will be located on the city lot corner North and Main Streets from Sept. 1st until September 5th. for your entertainment.
- This pageant was written and directed by Verna Dee L. Martin of McLeansboro, Illinois, a talented musician with dramatic experience.
 - We regret the omission of any names or pictures that should have been included in this book. Display of old relics and historical pictures at Skiles Building on North Street.

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On The Banks of The Wabash

PART I — The Beginning

In the 1700's the Wilderness Trail across Cumberland Gap through Tennessee and Kentucky had been pioneered by such frontiersmen as Daniel Boone. This exploration opened those states and the land beyond to settlers. Naturally some of these hardy men pushed on into southern Illinois. Not long after the War for Independence the rivers of of the "West" were teeming with men, women, children, livestock and whole households moving into the unknown. The Cumberland, the Tennessee, the Ohio and the great Wabash brought many settlers into the red man's territory. By the early 1800's some of these intrepid people had discovered that the Illinois territory, on the far side of the great Wabash, offered open prairies, forests abounding with bear, fox, panthers and opossum, and a climate as good as need be. Already earlier trappers, Indian scouts and frontiersmen had settled their differences with the local Indians either by flint-lock or peace pipe. Before the arrival of the white man, here lived and fought one of the most belligerent of Indian tribes, the Pottawotamie. These Pottawotamies, arriving too late to take part in the Fort Dearborn Massacre (War of 1812), staged a small war of their own.

Since 1772 George Rogers Clark and his men had fought frontier Indians, and now in the early 1800's there were few Indians but much wild life, thick forests and beautiful prairies. The first men to settle in this territory found much tall timber, oak, elm, sycamore and hickory. Beauty was added by innumerable catalpa and sweet smelling honey locust. The pawpaw, mulberry and persimmon they used for food. Bittersweet, honeysuckle and morning glory gave a wild beauty to the scene, while in the spring the woods and prairies were a mass of blooming wild flowers. Not all beauty, however, for they also found bear, panther, wild hogs and dangerous wolves. There were no beaver or buffalo in this area at the time of white settlement, but buffalo trails were still traceable. Deer were abun-

In 1809 Thomas Gray, a Virginian, came to White County and in 1810 moved to Bonpas, a small settlement strategically located near where Bonpas Creek flows into the great Wabash. Time has erased all evidence of who first picked this spot, but from 1810 when Thomas Gray moved in, began to raise hogs and took the first flat boat to New Orleans, it was never without a few settlers. We know that in 1814 Jonathan Shelby and Thomas Carney and families (coming from Tennessee) spent a year in Grayville before moving on to be the first family to settle permanently in Edwards County. Also in

1814, one Mr. Jones took land in Section 21, now known as the Oxford Hill section of Grayville and in 1816 Hugh Ronalds, an Englishman, was granted land in Section 20, a part of the present city. In 1817 Caleb Dickinson took land in the Edwards County section of the city. Such was the beginning, in the early 19th Century, amid Indians and wilderness, by sturdy pioneers from Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and even England, Ireland and Germany, of three small settlements. Florence was at the mouth of the Bonpas, Oxford on the bluff overlooking the river, and the community of Bonpas a short distance south. These three grew later into the village of Grayville.

Let us look now at the lives of these very first settlers. Grayville's river attracted settlers, as at this time most traveling and shipping was done by boat. So the settlement grew, and the first job after arriving and choosing a suitable location was to build a dwelling. Trees of uniform size were selected and logs cut to a desired length. The neighbors helped, and after each log was notched and saddled to fit as closely as possible, they were "raised" into place. The following day the family would "chink and daub" to keep out the weather. Most log cabins were of one room with perhaps a lean-to. The small logs on the roof were covered by clapboards made of the finest oak available. Re-daubing was done annually—after the spring rains. One end of the cabin had a large fireplace, usually accommodating logs of 6 or 8 feet. Most windows were squares covered with greased deer hide or paper, although many settlers had glass brought by flat boat down the Ohio from the East. Inside, the furnishings of this new home consisted of candles and lamps, a crane in the fireplace for cooking, rifle and powder horn, built-in beds and a rough table. Thanks to the river, our forefathers brought more furniture and favorite treasures from their original homes than did the pioneers farther west who had to travel over land by prairie schooner. There was not much money at this time, but very little was needed, as venison, wild turkey and game were plentiful. The most voracious eater could board at \$1.50 a week. In most cases the cooking was done at the fireplaces. Kettles were hung over the fire supported with pothooks on the crane, or a "spider", a long handled frying pan with legs, was used for cooking meat. This was also used for baking pancakes. Hominy and samp, made of pounded corn, were much used. The chief articles of diet were corn bread, hominy or samp, pork, beans, pumpkin, turkey, prairie chicken, squirrel and other wild game. Honey was used for sweetening. The men often wore buckskin "britches" and the women dresses of linsey-woolsey which they made on looms after having spun the thread on their own spinning wheels. They often went without footgear, or wore moccasins to save precious boots. Jewelry was uncommon. To make shoes, they took Serving The Tri-County Oil Fields
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GRAYVILLE, ILLINOIS

ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

the hair off animal skin by soaking it in wet ashes in a trough, and then tanning it in oak bark. This when wet and dried became as hard as bone, we are told.

The roads were bad, following Indian trails in some instances. In winter, they froze at night and thawed during the day, making a bottomless mud, impassable in winter and spring. An Indian trail along the big Wabash was the most traveled road in the beginning. Even in a new land all was not always peaceful. Some settlers failed to enter their land, and had to move if someone else entered it at the Shawneetown Land Office. Fist fights were often resorted to. Marauding bands of Indians still roved. In the fall of 1816 quite a sensation was created among the few settlers in this part of the country by the killing of James Boultinghouse and the mutilating of his body. James drove quite a quantity of hogs to fatten from the mast in the Big Creek timber. He built a camp, where he was found by a band of Shawnee Indians prowling through the country. Seeing that he was alone, they took him by surprise and murdered him on the spot. When found, his mutilated body was lying near his camp and his head suspended from a near-by pole. Tradition relates that the Indians were captured, stones lashed to their bodies and thrown into the big Wabash.

In 1815, another circumstance which threw the early settlers into a spasm of fear was what has passed into history as the "Cannon Massacre". As nearly as can be determined, this occured in Coffee Precinct a few miles north of where the Bonpas empties into the Wabash. A Mr. Cannon and his sons came across the Wabash from the Indiana side and constructed a cabin. No signs of Indians were seen while they were working. After completing the cabin, they recrossed the river to bring over the family. Later the same day, they all moved over and settled in their new home. The men of the family went into the timber to fell a bee tree. While they were thus engaged, a band of Indians suddenly fell upon them. Mr. Cannon and a son were instantly killed, with the son, Samuel, being horribly mutilated as well. Mrs. Cannon, a daughter and son-in-law were captured and carried off by the Indians. They were, however, subsequently ransomed. Mr. Cannon and his son were wrapped in a horse skin and placed in one grave.

Firearms were always carried, not only for hunting, and for protection against ferocious wild bears, boars, wolves and panthers, but also because it was made necessary by such roving bands of Indians.

Prairie fires were a terrifying spectacle in this area, and there again our great river must have given comfort. Sometimes fires were started to frighten game, or by the carelessness of Indians or

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

settlers. In any case, they were awesome things as they roared across prairie and timber, killing all in their path. Often settlers would make firebreaks around their cabins.

But pioneering had its bright side, too—log-rolling, quilting bees, and house-raisings. Horses were "swapped" and dances attended by the younger people. Twelve cents would buy a quart of whiskey and forty cents a gallon, which no doubt added to festivities. Even hog killings afforded a social day, as the pioneers helped one another with the work.

In 1832 the settlers suffered a terrible ordeal. It was the outbreak of the dreaded cholera. There were 15 or 20 fatalities. It is possible that this disease was brought into the area by the river boats. There were further epidemics in 1848, imported from New Orleans, with the final occurence in 1873. This later outbreak was very severe, but did not affect Grayville so much as other parts of the area. Through these first struggling years the pioneers depended on one another for help in times of sickness, as well as in times of celebration. In fact for their very life itself—what better foundation for further community strength!

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PART II — 1830-1860 RIVER TRAFFIC AND GROWING SETTLEMENT

After White County was organized in 1815 and Illinois became a state in 1818, we find our little settlement growing with the times. Grayville was still not officially a town or village, but there were beginning to be enough settlers around to impart a community spirit. In addition to George Webb and the families in the original village of Bonpas, were the following: In 1827 Jesse Coulter and wife lived nearby. The Robert Coulter family lived directly south of the present day city limits and a Mr. Covington lived south of our Memorial Park. In the fall of 1830 we find the first store in the area, a small white frame house standing on the site of the present northwest corner of Main and North Streets, used as a trading post and store house and run by James Gray and his brother-in-law, Robert B. Walden of Kentucky. On the southwest corner was the dwelling of James Gray and Robert Walden, a two-story double log house with a runway between. On the site of the post office was a log cabin occupied by Henry Hardin and his young bride. On the site of the city hall stood several

small log cabins housing the Grav and Walden negro slaves. And about eighty yards southeast of the present Baptist Church stood the log cabin of Richard McKinney and family. John Bell, a bachelor, had a cooper shop in what is now the 100 block south on Main Street. In 1836, Gray and Walden acquired land grants to some of the present town of Grayville, as had one William Martin in 1831. William "Buck" Martin lived in what is now the Edwards County part of Grayville. At this time, all except land cleared immediately around the homesteads was heavily wooded westward on the hills and extending even to the water's edge. The cleared area was about two acres. A boat landing was built upon the waterfront, and people and merchandise arrived by flatboat poled up or down the river. Boats used the mouth of the Bonpas Creek for winter quarters. The only road into this small community was from Albion which terminated at the mouth of the Bonpas. The western portion of the present Grayville was all Congress land. To the west of the river several miles lived settlers

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

named Jacob Vinyard, a Prussian; William Hallam, and William Bryant; to the north, a Thomas Kellet; to the south, Richard Davis, a Virginian; and still farther west, William Dunlap and Peter Kershaw. To the west also ran the Shawneetown-Vincennes road, much used in the early days by settlers and travelers of all sorts. Peter Kershaw, an old English gentleman, had a horsemill on his road and furnished shelter for both man and beast.



First House In Grayville

Still farther west were several Kuykendalls, where it is said Peter Kuykendall raised the first corn in White County in 1809, after settling at the edge of Big Prairie in 1808. Grayville was host to many travelers arriving by both wagon and boat. Gray and Walden's principal trade was exchanging goods for venison hams, deer, coon and mink pelts.

Grayville 12th October, 1832

Grayvine 12th Octo	ober, tooz
Mr. Hugh Ronalds	ĺ
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11/4 Yds. Blue Cloth	10.00
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4 Yds. Blk. Silk	5.00
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1 Yd. Cambrie	$0.31\frac{1}{2}$
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Gray and Walden

Calico was 37c a yard. By 1831 there was a road from Bonpas to Carmi. In 1830-31 the settlers suffered the added hardship of an exceptionally cold winter. Snow was deep with a crust so hard a man could walk on its surface. Animals were exhausted by hunger and easy to chase down. Much wood was felled and burned.

In the summer of 1831 good crops were produced by the rich soil and good weather. It was also in July of 1831 that occurred the first wedding of which we have record. From the history of White County published in 1883, we quote: "The high

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

contracting parties were Edward Feverson of Edwards County and Sallie Kelly, daughter of Jacob Kelly who lived in a log house in a thick cane-brake on the east river bank of the big Wabash. Jacob Kelly claimed all the domain from the mouth of the bayou at Webb's Ferry to the head of said bayou. Miss Sallie was his oldest child, a sweet maid of 18. On the day the wedding took place, the groom with his escort from Edwards appeared on the west bank of the river in the valley south of Oxford hill, with Elder Charles Whiting, the clergyman. Two well-laden canoes shot out from "Kelly's Kingdom" with the bride and her attendants on board. A landing was effected without accident. The beautiful Sallie ascended the bank with unfaltering step and walked straight to the mark. In the presence of a large concourse of people, Elder Whiting joined the young couple in the holy bonds of matrimony. Immediately after the closing ceremony, Jacob Kelly announced, "Everybody cross the river to my house, where you will find plenty of whiskey and something to eat." The canoes were kept busy transporting the large crowd from the Illinois to the Indiana shore. While this was in progress a foot-race was run for a prize of two gallons of rum. Robert Williams and Sam Potter were the contestants. The ground selected was the sand bar opposite George Webb's farm, 100 yards distant, to start at the drop of a hat. At the starting time it was about 12 o'clock, and the sun came down on the sand bar with a fearful heat. They put their backs to the sun and ran to the north. When these two gladiators stripped for the contest, I was delighted with their giant forms and manly bearings. At the drop of the hat off they shot like two mighty race horses. Sam Potter came out 4 feet ahead. It seemed that he owed his success to retaining his shoes, while Williams ran in his bare feet and consequently sank deeper into the soft sand. By the time the race was over the rum was on hand, having been brought from Gray and Walden's store. We all took a drink and passed over the river to dinner. A general good time was had in that canebreak that afternoon. A platform was laid with plank in the yard. Steve Hering was there with his fiddle. It would have delighted anyone to witness Zack Boultinghouse, Robert Walden, Soloman Charles, Major Stephenson, Sam'l. Potter, Robt. Coulter, Noah Davis, John Webb, James Calvin, stepping time to the music with their partners in a mazy dance. I shall not personate any of the ladies who took part in that dance. Suffice it to say their spotless fame stands out in bold relief as a rich legacy to the present generations.

As the State grew, so grew the community. In October, 1831, our settlers traveled with many others in the area to a mass meeting held in Carmi by the Whigs. A large crowd assembled, and among the speakers was Abraham Lincoln, one of the elec-

240

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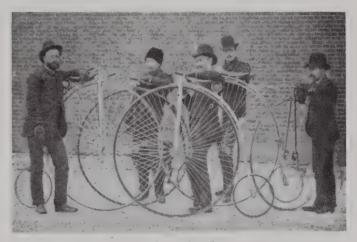
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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

tors on the Harrison-Tyler ticket. At this time, the Whigs had elected their entire ticket in White County. So as civilization advanced, our settlers turned their attention from physician survival to interest in community, state and nation.

The next ten years showed rapid growth. Businesses sprang up, farms were cultivated, and the wilderness gave way to civilization. Trading was brisk and lush harvests were sent by boat down the river to be sold in the South. Corn was selling at 15c to 30c a bushel, coffee 20c a pound, and fence posts at 10c each. Business houses were built—a hotel, "The Wabash House", catered to steamboat passengers. The gentling and growth of the small community was evidenced even in the dress



High Wheelers

of the pioneers. By 1830 the pioneer costume had changed. The linsey hunting shirts had given way to the cloth coat. The coon skin cap was thrown aside for the hats of wool or fur. Boots and shoes supplanted the deer-skin moccasins, and leather breeches had all but disappeared. The women had made even greater progress in their apparel. The old coarse cloth gave way to many-hued silk and calico. Heads were covered with fancy bonnets and feet with slippers of kidskin.

In 1832—The Black Hawk War took men from the settlement, and also caused a stirring of the Indians. The Pottawotamies refused to join Chief Blackhawk, and returned to their homes along the Wabash.

1842 will long be remembered as a period of great suffering. Throughout the Union the panic of 1840 was being felt in every branch of business, and by 1842 none were more pressed than the people on the Wabash. During the period of 1842 to 1844, the businesses of Grayville looked as though a cyclone had passed—not one business house left. Even the dramshops were clean dry.

However, by 1844, the dead town of Grayville

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

was showing some signs of life. We know of the following merchants: Sam Lichtenburger, who had a light dry goods store; William Stone, another light dry goods store; Sam T. Mills and Thomas Mathews dealt in groceries; and Daniel Hay and William Weed, who operated a steam saw-mill.

Now we come to the time in the settlement of any community when settlers pour in more rapidly. and it is impossible now to know or name all the groups who came after the very early days until the middle of the last century. There must have been quite a few between 1830 and 1840, because at that time we see a much more communitized group. We have shown their interest in local, state and national politics. They were equally interested in their local laws and courts and their county business. According to the writings of an early citizen, the first school, a little log building, stood in the 400 block west on what is now North Street. It was still surrounded by unbroken forest. Mud and stick fireplaces heated the building. It is something to be said for our forefathers that they always built a school house at the earliest practicable period. These first schools were "blab" schools, with all the children reciting their lessons aloud. Writing desks were heavy oak planks and benches. The teacher used quill pens, and books, of course, were scarce. In addition to reading and writing, sums and spelling were taught. Spelling was important socially as well as academically, because it led to the "spelling bee". Two good students, perhaps appointed by the teacher, chose sides and everyone in the community spelled down one another. As well as the spelling school, the singing school was an occasion of much jollity. By the middle of the century, there were a number of schools, and the free-school system was adopted in Illinois in the spring of 1855. A two-story brick school house was built in 1857, heated by a coal stove. The first church of the community was said to be on what is now the northwest corner of Court and South Streets, around 1837-38. This was a Predestinarian Baptist Church. This was a very small frame building and was never plastered. The benches had no backs and were supported by four wooden legs. It is believed that the first religious services were in a little Methodist Church on the farm of John Kellett, an early settler.

By 1843, there was a great religious revival inspired in part by the financial panic and other troubles of a few years past. As in years before and since, the settlers in times of stress turned to their God.

The year 1849 was a plentiful and prosperous one on the Wabash. All branches of business were paying good dividends. The farmers, and there were quite a number by now, were making money, improving their farms and clearing new fields. Then

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

the excitement of gold fever caught the people along the Wabash. Many left for California, but it is believed that most came back to their first love, the shores of the Wabash, wiser if not wealthier men. Also in 1849, the discharged men who served in the Mexican War received land warrants, and many farms around this community date their titles from that time.

Grayville in about two decades had grown from one store, Gray and Walden's, in 1832, to have a business district by the middle of the century. Let us try to picture our community during the ten years prior to the Civil War.

In 1854, J. J. Prother had started the Herald, a Whig newspaper, which in 1859 was leased by J. Ed Clarke, an associate editor of the Herald, who issued the first number of the Grayville Independent. Mr. Clarke, with his two sons, ran this paper for a number of years. In 1858, the Grayville Herald had its slogan "Independent in all things—neutral in none." Also in 1856, Mr. William Charles started the Grayville Weekly Journal. These early newspapers carried legal notices, lands sold for taxes, deeds, administrative adjustments, and marriages; but not much local personal news until later. The national news was very late, being copied from other papers or brought by travelers. Often returning citizens brought home out-of-town newspapers.

The early editor of the Grayville newspaper had great faith in his city, as shown by this editorial of Dec. 5, 1857: "We were in Olney this week and found the natives stirring round right lively. Mr. Nowell has just completed a very extensive porkhouse, capable of receiving any amount of pork. The town looks cheerful and might become a place of some importance were it not so close to Grayville."

Also interesting are these further news excerpts: From Grayville Weekly Herald, January 16, 1858: "The low-lifed, contemptible little cur who pretends to edit the filthy looking thing, which has recently sprung from the ashes of the Mt. Vernon (Ill.) Torch Light, whines at us most grievously. Now, we had no inclination to tramp on this puppy's tail, but it appears we have done it unintentionally." And from the Grayville Independent, May 19, 1865: "Steam Cooperage—R. Glover has just got his steam engine and machinery in operation, and the concern is well worth a visit. Logs and timber are hauled up by machinery to the proper spot, where a cross cut saw is ready to cut it up. This latter concern is a new invention patented last February. Other machinery cuts staves and heading.'

The Methodist Church, first built about 1838, was replaced by an impressive cupola-crowned building in 1852. In 1844, the Christian Church erected a frame building 30 x 50 feet. In 1850, the Cum-

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

berland Presbyterian Church was organized, and for a long while held their meetings in the Baptist Church building. Also in the year 1850, both the Sheba Lodge and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows were organized. The Sons of Temperance were granted a charter in 1849.

We know that by 1850 there were a number of business houses, the Rigall Hotel, and at least two other hostelries. In 1857, the Hunter Hotel was opened with James Hunter as proprietor. And the Grayville House was run by J. M. Caldwell.

In 1844, Thomas Mathews, an Irishman from County Longford, moved to Grayville. He was a tailor by trade, and then opened a grocery business, which was carried on for many years by his son, George D., in a building on the site of the present Post Office.

Mr. Abner Carey, who came in 1847, had a sawmill until around 1850, and then went into flour milling with Mr. Stewart and Mr. Lanterman in 1855, organizing the Empire Mills. In 1852, Mr. Sylvester Blood moved to Grayville, to join his brother, Addison Blood, who was head sawyer in a sawmill operated by Mr. Weed, Mr. Carey, and Mr. Jolly. In 1858, J. E. Clarke opened the Grayville Picture Gallery. He took daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and Italian sunset pictures; also pictures of deceased persons. Mr. Hugh Blair engaged in mercantile trade, handling produce, and in 1865, Mr. Samuel Blair was engaged in steamboating on the river. Since 1844, Lorenzo Boord had a tannery and also a harness shop. Messrs. James and Albert Coles ran a livery stable on Main Street, which they built in 1855. Mr. William Spalding made buggies here. Messrs. James and Francis Coulter were both carpenters and during this time built many of the frame houses replacing the log cabins around the community. In 1856, Mr. John W. Coulter opened a steam furniture factory. In 1857, Jonathan Eastwood came to Grayville from the English settlement in Albion and dealt largely in real estate. Mr. John B. Jolly was engaged in a dry goods store with a Mr. Mayo, and also ran the aforementioned sawmill with Abner Carey and George M. Weed. In 1850, Sam Orange moved from the English settlement at Albion and opened a general store and business. George Pope came to Grayville in 1851 and started a wagon-making business. In 1856 John Mills and son operated a store, and Mr. Steele and Mr. Spring also had a grocery and dry goods business. Clarence H. Spring, from Albion, worked in a drug store in Grayville run by Dr. Garrick and later worked in the hardware and grocery store for Mr. Prunty and Mr. Woodward. This store did a large wholesale business furnishing nearly all the flour between here and Centralia, Illinois.

In 1853 David Negley came to Grayville, and

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

being a carpenter, engaged in the contracting business. Mr. Samuel Annable owned and operated the Grayville Nursery. In 1856, Mr. R. B. Beidelman was a blacksmith and carriage maker. In 1855 Mr. J. H. Kron "respectfully informed his friends that



NORTH STREET

he would open his public school on the first Monday in September." In 1858 Mitchell and Spring's drug store advertised "French, English, German and American drugs and medicines". In 1856 Mr. Lindsay Spring owned a livery and sole stable, carrying hacks, carriages, buggies and saddle horses.

During this period of growing business and agriculture, there were also professional men. As our village was not a county seat, the lawyers for the most part lived in other areas. But we did have representatives of the medical profession; one Dr. Abel Vaughn had practiced medicine in Grayville since 1836, when it consisted mainly of log cabins. Francis M. Charles, a descendant of Henry Charles who settled in White County in 1816, was a dentist during this period. Dr. Loren Burdick began the practice of medicine in 1857 and operated a drug store with Dr. Garrick. Dr. C. R. Smith, who graduated in medicine from the Evansville Medical College, began his practice in Grayville in 1850. In 1858 Mr. E. V. Mitchell was a physician, surgeon and accoucheur. Dr. James Stokes came to this community in 1860. In 1857 a Dr. F. Hutchinson, a traveling dentist, visited Grayville once every two months to make "mechanical" teeth for the inhabitants. He set up shop in the newspaper office, and a good many people who had previously "gummed it" were grateful.

On July 1, 1838, the first official mail was carried from Shawneetown, Illinois, to Vincennes, Indiana, both very old settlements by comparison. Says Sam Martin, hostler for the only hotel in Grayville at that time—a log structure on the corner of Main and North Streets, "I well remember that eventful day. At 5 P.M. I heard the horn of the approaching coach, drawn by four horses, from the south. It was all excitement in and about the hotel. The two coaches met in front of the house, each crowded with distinguished men." In 1850 a plank road was commenced between Grayville and Albi-

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

on. It was never quite completed. A toll-gate was established about a mile north of Grayville. The first movement to run a railroad near our settlement was made in 1853. It was the Vincennes and Paducah Railroad Company! there was a preliminary line running through Grayville, but it was dropped before it was far advanced. The next effort, in 1857, was made by the Illinois Southern Railroad Company. Nothing further was accomplished until 1867, when the Cairo and Vincennes Railroad Company was organized. None of these three came to anything, beyond organizing companies and at some points grading for road beds.

From the April 2, 1859, edition of the Independent, we learn that "a new era is about to dawn on Grayville, It is no less than the introduction of the coal-oil lamp, which certainly is a decided improve-



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ment on all the artificial lights (gas excepted) that we have ever seen. The oil is fully two-thirds cheaper and one thousand per cent neater than lard oil or burning fluid."

In learning of these early businesses in Grayville, it is interesting to observe the nature of their stores. It has been noted that in 1850 one Samuel Orange moved to Grayville and opened a store. In 1857 Mr. Orange, in addition to handling real estate and his store, made furniture and specialized in coffins. His newspaper advertisements stated "any size or kind". And also in the year 1857, Mr. Prunty and Woodward, established businessmen, advertised groceries, iron, nails, wagons and buggies, axles, cutlery, etc.

In 1857, business was improving, after having been poor.

In 1858, Arthur Steele ran an establishment on North Street, selling dry goods, groceries, and hardware. J. S. Coulter owned a factory manufacturing sashes, doors, and blinds. A similar factory was

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

owned and operated by W. H. Gilbert on the plank road above Main Street. In 1857, Mr. W. H. Crawford, a merchant tailor, had a clothing store, where, in addition to doing tailoring, he sold ready-make clothes. Also in 1857, one I. H. Hamilton had a book and stationery shop on the corner of Main and South Streets. Nor was business confined to the men. Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Tanquary were milliners, making beautiful bonnets and bonnet trimmings.

In 1858, Harvey and Mason were paperhangers. The Eagle Flouring Mill was run by Benjamin Batson.



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In comparison with the Indian paths and "poled" barges and flat boats of an earlier day, Grayville in June, 1857, had a stage line. The Grayville and Olney Stage line had coaches leaving Grayville on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and arriving Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings. This line was run by J. and J. C. Montgomery, and it is said the accommodations for passengers were luxurious. There was also at this time the Evansville and Grayville Packet. One of the Steamers, "Kate Sarchet", with one Desouchet, master, made regular runs down the Ohio and up the Wabash during the season. In June, 1858 there was a new steam ferry boat making regular trips from Grayville to New Harmony, Ind. They regularly left on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday but would make extra trips if necessary. This was run by John R. Hugo.

In the late spring of 1858, we know that much excitement was created by the arrival of Antonio and Wilder's Circus. The admission for box seats was 50c, and the parquette, 25c. Perhaps more exciting than the circus were political rallies of the day. In 1856, when Fillmore was running for President of the United States, political feeling ran high. As in all the elections of the period, the rallies were social events. Families, arriving by carriage, wagon, and

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

buckboard, gathered from all the surrounding countryside for speeches, parades and singing. The oratory of the day was full-blown and high-flown. Big picnic dinners were served and eaten, and at night the torch-light parades were spectacular. In 1856, the Democrats were saying that "whiskey killed the Republican party". The newspaper carried many political editorials as well as many verbal fights between readers. Handbills were much used as a means of political advertising. In 1858, we see by the records that on May 29, 12M, many Grayvillians attended a National Democratic Meeting, administration of James Buchanan, to appoint delegates to the State Convention.

Also in 1857 Thomas Bishop, realtor, had a great sale of town lots in Bishop's addition on well-known Oxford tract adjoining the thriving town of Grayville. On the strength of the location here of the Grayville and Mattoon Railroad terminus and the Mound City and Vincennes Railroad a fixed fact, it is assumed the sale was good. Grayville was advertised as a town with many advantages, one of the most important being that "the health cannot be surpassed".

There was now, in addition to the Masonic Lodge, Sons of Temperance; Opal Lodge; a Working Man's Lyceum on North Street below Main, open every Friday evening; J. E. Clarke was librarian. There was also an Agricultural Society meeting regularly.

For comparative purposes, the market prices of the 1850's are interesting. From a commercial report of 1858, written by Mr. W. T. Prunty, we find: wheat, 80c a bushel; corn, 35c a bushel; meal, 60c; hay, \$8.00 per ton; Flour, \$5.00 a barrel; gunnies, 15c; whiskey, 27c; coffee, 14c a pound; sugar, 11c a pound; cheese, 11c a pound; lard, 8c a pound; eggs, 6c a dozen; salt, 35c per bushel: shot, \$2.25 per bag and dry hides, 9c a pound.

The mid-fifties were not without their difficulties, despite the prosperities of business and the growth



Loading Corn On Barge

of the community. In 1857, there was an influx of counterfeiting. One-dollar bills were printed on the fictitious Bank of Jeffersonville, Indiana, so the notes were nothing more or less than shinplasters.

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

One newspaper of the time also warned the citizens against \$5.00 bills printed on the Southern Bank of Illinois. The newspaper stated, "these are very poorly done" and gave a description of them that people might take note and beware.

In 1855 White County, including Grayville, had a population of free white male, 5,211; free white female, 5,073; colored male, 50; and colored female 61. There were seven common schools with a total enrollment of 204.

Thus we see how in a few short years after settlement, Grayville had grown from a few log cabins surrounded by unbroken timber, to a thriving small community, with carpenters and bricklayers, frame and brick houses, property bought and sold, mills, stores and sawmills, livery stables and warehouses, doctors, dentists and druggists; interest in politics, a newspaper, schools, churches, and even fraternal orders; steamboats on the river, roads and several hotels to accommodate travelers. It is to be remembered that then as now the backbone of the community was farming. Farmers appear in our history from the very first, who, although they were not actually in the confines of this small city as it was platted and incorporated in 1855, were an integral part of the community. Farmers whose names were Fearn, Davis, Kuykendall, Boultinghouse, Butler, Hallam, Helm, Kershaw, Groff, and Robinson. It must also be remembered that these strong early settlers who had struggled to give life to this new town came from varied backgrounds. Some had slaves, some did not. Emotions and tensions heightened as black war clouds loomed.

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PART III – CIVIL WAR DAYS

When the echo of the cannon that fired on Fort Sumter rolled along the great Wabash, the patriotic spirit of the citizens of Grayville was "fired". Many were the parting scenes occasioned by soldiers leaving for war. Historians tell us that under the circumstances there was very little parading or public speech-making.

The Grayville newspaper, very Pro-Union, showed Jefferson Davis hanging on a scaffold with the caption, "Appropriate end of Jeff Davis". In 1861, three companies were raised in our county. The men from this vicinity responded in such great numbers that White County was the only county in the state that did not draft or pay a bounty to more than fill its quota.

Post 373 of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized Dec. 12, 1883, with the following charter members: Francis M. Charles, George W. Haynie, Frederick Bodishbaugh, Joseph Milliron, William Carothers, Henry E. Blood, Thomas R. Inwood, George A. Tromley, Richard Chism, George W. Breffett and James A. Rogers.

On April 21, 1865, the following account appeared in the Grayville newspaper, (In Heavy Black Border), headed, "Assassination of President". On last Sunday, a rumor reached here that Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, had been assassinated on the evening of the 14th. The story was so horrible that we could hardly believe it, but in



Civil War Veterans

the evening Messrs. F. M. Lanterman and J. B. Jolly arriving from Cincinnati confirmed the sad news."

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued) PART IV—The Rest of the Century; 1865-1900

How great a change in our local community was wrought by the Civil War and its aftermath? We know from the rolls that many young men left and some returned. As in all wars in history, there were those who did not get back to their homes along the



Regiment Band

Wabash. But without them, and perhaps because of them, our town and its people continued to grow. There were more schools, some even made of brick now. More social and fraternal groups were formed—agricultural societies helped to modernize and increase farming; churches grew and new sects and denominations were added. In 1879 the White County Medical Society was formed, and in 1880 there was a White County Bible Society. 1873 saw the last of the cholera epidemics. This siege was not so severe as that experienced by the earlier citizens in 1832—which may well have been due to the organization of a board of health. The first correct and really satisfactory map of the area was published in 1871. And in 1876 a new school was built.



High School

It was an imposing two-story building of brick, with two recitation rooms on each floor. Each room was heated by coal stoves and seated about 50 students. This building was built by William Gilbert and Best Wishes To

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

D. S. Coulter, carpenters, with W. G. Wheatcroft doing the brick work. The cost was \$6,000. In 1879 education in Grayville achieved a new high with the establishment on April 28 of the "Grayville Normal College and Commercial and Literary Institute." This institution was headed by Professor C. C. Harper, and at the end of the first year had 7 graduates.

Let us now look at some of the industries. Your chronicler has already tried to give a picture of the earlier stores and mills. Now consider the scene as it was in the latter part of the 19th century.

The Empire Mills, first erected in 1855 and previously mentioned, were now putting out a superior flour found in every market in the country (mostly in New York City). In 1865 the Empire Mills Company purchased a fine building on the corner of North and Main. Blood and Vaughn's saw and



High Stepper

planing mill, first erected in 1878, using a 50 horsepower saw was averaging 10,000 feet per day; Martin Brissenden and Company's Saw Mill, erected in 1874, was run by William Gravett and S. J. Orange; A. Carey & Son, manufacturers of stoves and hardwood lumber, erected in 1876, made shipments principally to St. Louis, Missouri; and the Empire Store and Heating factory, located on the banks of the Bonpas, was owned and operated by Robert Glover. Mr. W. W. Gray had a pork-packing establishment from approximately 1858 until the late 1880's. In February, 1882, the W. W. Gray bank was established on Mill Street at Court, and a little later the Grayville Banking Co. was started by William Gravette, John Pickering, and later Horace Woodward who assigned to John B. Jolly. Dr. Robert H. Cooke, a physician, built and opened the Cooke Opera House in 1881, which had a seating capacity of about 500. He also operated a hardware business in a fine business house. Grayville now had three hotels. The Grayville Hotel, also known as the Mitchell House, kept by M. P. Mitchell, was the BEST WISHES TO

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60 Shavers as prizes for the Beard Contest.

Best Wishes to All Our Friends

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

principal stopping place for travelers. It was opened in March, 1882, and the transient rates were \$2.00 a day, with permanent guests being welcome also. The Butler House, from 1872 until at least 1833, was believed to have been on the same site as the previously mentioned earliest hotel at the corner of North and Main. There was also the Rigall Hotel, which was in a building constructed as early as 1843 by James Hall of Albion at the corner of Mill and Main Streets. This was a store from 1886 until 1871. From that date it was run as a hotel by the



REPLACED BY BAPTIST CHURCH

widowed Mrs. Rigall, well into the memory of people living today. There was also the Stokes Infirmary, presumably founded by Dr. James or Willoughby Stokes, located between Main and Middle Streets on South Street, on what was then Elizabeth Street.

The year 1865, and Grayville still had the Grayville House with facilities for making the weary traveler feel at home. Also during and after the Civil War, our town had the A. Woodard & Co., wholesale and retail dealers in groceries, iron, steel and nails; Mrs. N. A. Cooper, milliner; Miss Mary Covington, milliner and dressmaker, Perigo, Burrell & Co., dealers in dry goods, boots, shoes, and notions, located on Main Street. Mr. Gilbert's furniture factory had a sales room on Plank Road Street (now Mill Street). And according to the newspaper of that year, "Eastwood and Hollister have just received a beautiful assortment of coal-oil lamps of of all sizes and qualities. They have also the celebrated hinge burners, far superior to the old-fashioned"; and "Williams and Pickering have been marking down their goods to suit Grant's and Sherman's ideas of the state of affairs in Jeff's 'Conthieveracy'. Sherman whips the rebs-down goes gold and down go the goods". And Mr. W. M. Records, located on the corner of South and Main Streets, kept on hand the best qualities of tobacco

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)



Miss Emma Mather, Wm. Griffy Frances C. Mather, George W. Mather

of his own manufacture. He also paid cash for good leaf tobacco. And the following advertisement appeared in the April 4, 1865, edition of the local newspaper:

"The great Itch and Humor Killer of the 19th Century!
This new preparation possesses most wonderful properties and is

A SURE CURE

For every species of the ITCH, PRAIRIE ITCH, WABASH SCRATCHES, and ILLINOIS MANGE."

Every Saturday, William Hocking was selling fresh beef, pork or mutton at the Market House on North Street. John Rigall ran a store at the corner of Main and Plank Road Street, and just one door west Henry McClane sold furniture. On Main Street at the Edwards County line John Dinnel had a blacksmith shop. In 1863, W. F. Baldwin had leased the old stand of T. J. Enlow and set up as a blacksmith, while Thomas Rodgers shoed horses and made plows at the corner of Main and Plank Road opposite Coles' Livery Stables. Also in 1863, William G. Wheatcroft located in Grayville and "respectfully

HANDSOME KEEPSAKE



Centennial Plate

Scene of early Grayville days is beautifully reproduced on lovely porcelain plate in ten glowing ceramic colors! Border is 23 Kt. Gold filigree. Decoration is permanently fired on, guaranteed for the life of the plate. These attractive keepsakes for your home can be purchased from a member of The Sisters of the Wabash. You'll want one for yourself and several for gifts.

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MEADOW GOLD PRODUCTS

ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

informed the citizens thereof, and surrounding country, that he would attend to all calls in the line of his profession, such as laying bricks in house walls, chimneys, or building cisterns, at very reasonable prices". Mr. Wheatcroft built a first rate brick kiln. Mr. William L. Payne was a saddle, bridle and harness maker, with a shop on Main Street. In 1865, Franklin Melrose, after serving in the Civil War, arrived in Grayville, engaging in the mercantile business in 1871, and later, in 1889, served as Postmaster under Benjamin Harrison. In 1865, C. H. Spring was Postmaster. In view of future developments, it may be interesting to note here that in 1866 a search for oil was begun in Southern Illinois and actually got as close to Gravville as Wabash County to the north. Before the middle of the century white men copied the Indians and used crude petroleum as a remedy for ailments; older people may recall the bottles of "Seneca Oil".

In 1867 business was very brisk in Grayville. The merchants had a splendid opportunity for shipping, as the great Wabash was full of steamboats. On March 1, 1867, the local newspaper was quoted as saying, "On Tuesday last, there were five or six

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Mt. Carmel, Illinois



NORTH STREET

ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

steamers at our landing, all busy loading and unloading." These steamers also carried many passengers. Steamboats actively navigated the river until 1880, when Grayville got the first of her two railroads.

We have talked a great deal about the businesses and industries. Let us not forget the social and cultural side of the community's development, for never even in its earliest days was this part of the country without its musicians, poets, writers and very well-educated men. A scientific club was formed in November, 1880. Popular lectures were given by professors from Normal, Southern Illinois University, Indiana University, McKendree and other colleges. The Grayville Literary Society was formed in 1872. In 1875 the Popular Grayville Literary Society, and in 1877 the Bryant Literary Society came into being. November, 1880, saw the birth of the Philharmonic Club. Each of the organizations had officers, by laws and constitutions and added much to the social and cultural life of the communi-

ty. Pehaps, though, the most famous organization was the 9th Regiment Band, Grayville, organized in



Grayville Band 1903

November, 1879, by G. G. Morey and H. P. Buckley. At first it was known as "Our Boys' Band" until



1913 Flood



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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

1882, when it was selected as a regimental band of the Illinois National Guard. They wore a dark blue uniform, trimmed in buff and gold, and the regulation U.S. helmet with falling plume. The members were Grant G. Morey, H. P. Buckley, J. F. Matthews, F. E. Clarke, Will H. Weed, Hugh L. Ronalds, William H. Glover, Will Pruett, Rienze W. Jennings, W. W. Coulter, Charles F. Speck, J. E. Oscar Clarke, Robert S. Prunty, George M. Pope, Edward S. Carey, Charles Ellis and H. A. Stewart, drum major.

After or during the Civil War there were also new professional men in Grayville. In 1861 Dr. Francis Ronalds, son of Hugh Ronalds of Albion and Grayville, previously mentioned as having taken a land grant of some of the original town site, moved his family and his practice to Grayville. Dr. W. L. Hallam in 1886 practiced medicine in an office next to his residence at the corner of North and Court Streets. Dr. George Haynie practiced medicine and opened a drug store in 1875. Dr. C. R. Smith practiced dentistry, and Dr. L. Burdick continued to "doctor". J. M. G. Carter came to Grayville in the summer of 1880, where he built up a good practice as a physician.

In 1871 John Helm, after following the sea for 15 years, returned to Grayville and engaged extensively in farming. During the two decades following the Civil War much of the carpentering and joining in our community was done by Green and John Lindsey, father and son. Another newspaper appeared upon the scene. In 1865 the Grayville Weekly Democrat was published by Messrs. Legge and Wood, but lasted only a few months. It became defunct until 1880 when the second Weekly Democrat was revived by Editor D. H. Bacon.

In 1860 Samuel Speck, a German, came to Grayville from Evansville, where he had learned the tinsmith trade, and opened a hardware store. This was gradually enlarged to have an excellent stock of goods and was considered one of the finest of such stores in the country. In 1864 W. M. Carothers, a Grayville youth who had lost an arm during the war, returned and started a saloon.

In 1876 the mill of Brissenden and Martin was destroyed by fire. The conflagration must have been terrific as the loss was estimated at \$20,000 with everything burned including new machinery and a half million feet of lumber. Another memorable fire occurred in the dead of winter, December, 1881, when the business of Michael Smith burned. This included a saloon, groceries and a saddlery.

Thus, our prosperous little city moved through the early post-Civil War days, with none of the reconstruction pains of other parts of the country. Business was good. The city was almost a center for

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New Harmony, Indiana

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)



Blood and Vaughn Employees

the lumber industry; Blood Bros, alone were sawing millions of feet of hardwood annually. There was a thriving mill business and many manufacturers, which continued to grow and improve through the 70's and 80's.

So we move into the last fifteen years of the century, thought by some to be not only the most prosperous, but also the most delightful in our city's history.

What was Grayville like back in those peaceful days? Some beautiful, large brick homes have been



H. L. Ronalds, Mrs. Mather, W. W. Gray, Mrs. Emmerson

constructed. In 1883, we know there was a big building boom. On May 17, 1883, the Grayville Building and Loan was started with capital stock of \$100,000. W. W. Gray had built a bank and opera house on the corner of Middle and North Streets. He was said to have the finest safe in southern Illinois. Dr. Cooke's opera house was but a few doors up North St. It seems that with some slight changes during this period, Grayville had much the same downtown buildings as later. There were still some residences among the business houses. With two opera houses, there was plenty of entertainment. In February, 1883, a Juvenile Opera Company of thirty young people was engaged for a month. They gave

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

a matinee and a night performance daily. "The Little Duke" was one of the most popular operas to be presented. The opera house also presented "The Spectacle of Davy Crockett dressed as a modern dude in a cutaway coat, peg-toed shoes and a stiff cady."

In 1877 we learn that "some infamous scoundrel, in human shape, has poisoned the fine stallion belonging to Mr. Frederick Groff, who lives some six miles west of Grayville on the Little Wabash".



Excelsior Club

Margaret Cooke, Emma Brechner, Hal Spring, Patty Cooke, Eunice Davis, Leah McCartney, Aurelia Charles, Lizzie Brechner.

Progress was apparent. In 1883 the City Council passed an ordinance to take hogs out of town. This "hog law" caused much comment pro and con, with many citizens feeling that it was ridiculous. Also in 1883 Timothy O'Leary who was Town Supervisor, laid the first sewer pipe, a 12-inch pipe, along North Street from Middle to Main. In July brick sidewalks were constructed downtown by order of the City Council. We see the beginning of a credit system, as the merchants voluntarily banded together to prevent delinquent credit customers' ("dead beats", as they were called then) going from store to store leaving unpaid bills. In April, 1882, just before adjourning, a bill was passed by Congress, granting a pension of \$8.00 per month to the survivors and their widows of the Black Hawk, Creek, Cherokee and Seminole Wars. There were a number of such survivors in and around Grayville.

And what were the businesses in these 1880's? Joe Horste ran a meat market; G. A. Tromly had a jewelry store on North Street; T. J. Mathews, a book store; and E. P. Bowman had built a large brick business house for groceries, hardware and clothing; Mr. Melrose had a harness shop; John Brechner was agent for a harvester! William Baun made wagons, buggies and farm implements; and Charles G. Jennings and W. C. Musset owned a large dry goods store, with a branch store in Browns; August Kreis,

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John L. Whetstone County Clerk

W. D. Morris
County Treasurer

Max Endicott
County Judge

Herman Kittinger
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GRAYVILLE, ILLINOIS

ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)



North Street

two doors west of the present bank, had a store and skating rink where he sold confections and tobacco; George Hall was a furniture dealer and undertaker. George W. Cline and T. G. Parker, both attorneysat-law, were practicing in Grayville.

In 1884 J. C. Ronalds had a dry goods store; R. H. Cooke, a hardware store, A. C. Hollister was a manufacturer and dealer in boots and shoes; Mr. A. A. Boord had a drug store in the first building west of the alley on North Street between Main and Middle Streets; E. J. Buckley had a dry goods store with Mr. Orange; and Ben and Nat March operated a "Mammoth" clothing store. The Commercial Hotel, G. W. Cleavelin, proprietor, advertised rates at \$1.00 a day room and board, with a single meal costing 25c. Mr. J. A. Boyd leased the Empire building on the corner of North and Main and opened a first-class hotel.

In March, 1884, the Independent states that Capt. S. D. Blair had started from Evansville with a new propeller, but because of mishap had to lay up at Wabash Station, and the boat didn't arrive until a week later.

One of the most popular businesses in Grayville

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

was Mr. Theodore Emmerick's Ice Cream Parlor and Bakery. Also popular was Mr. Michael Smith's saloon.



George Halls Store

During this period Grayville had two schools, with a total enrollment of 251. There were seven teachers on the south side and three on the north. The teachers were paid from \$25.00 to \$100.00 a month, and some citizens were complaining because it took almost \$600.00 a month to run the schools. In 1883 the first telephone conversation was held between Grayville and Albion.

From the Grayville Independent of April 20, 1882 — "A party of unknown masked men made a raid on the old Porkhouse on Oxford Hill one night last week and gave three or four female inmates a good coat of tar, and soundly thrashed their *mail* (sic) 'protectors'. The whole party has left town and it is to be hoped they will not return."

The P. D. & E. Railroad took passengers to both Evansville and Chicago. The total run cost \$4.00, and a passenger leaving Grayville at 8 a.m. arrived in Chicago at 8 p.m.—the following day. There was also the overland mail between Grayville and Albion. This was known as the "Albion Jug Line" from the fact that almost daily one Brown, the driver, would take numerous jugs of liquor from Grayville saloons to parties in Albion, there being no saloons in that place.

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

H. L. Ronalds was attending the State Industrial School, located half-way between the towns of Champaign and Urbana, Illinois.

M. P. Mitchell owned and ran the Mitchell House (on the site of the present Baptist Church). After his death, it was continued by his wife and children.

June 17, 1886—The "Boosters" of Grayville published the following report in the local newspaper:



Barber Shop 1909

"GRAYVILLE HAD: 2 banks, 2 depots, 1 bakery, 1 jeweler, 4 hotels, 2 dentists, 1 orchestra, 4 lawyers, 2 tin shops, 3 saloons, 1 ice dealer, 1 steamboat, 1 book store, 2 shoe shops, 1 notion store, 1 cooper shop, 2 auctioneers, splendid schools, 2 coal dealers, 4 restaurants, 2 undertakers, 1 billiard hall, 1 fence factory, 3 drug stores, 2 wagon shops, 1 flour mill, a Masonic Lodge, 2 livery stables, 2 meat markets, 1 photographer, 1 furniture factory, 3 barber shops, 3 lumber yards, a G.A.R. Post, 1 market garden, 3 harness shops, an I.O.O.F. Lodge, a Y.M.C.A. Library, plenty of shade trees, 3 clothing stores, 4 millinery stores, 12 grocery stores, a mystic dancing club, 4 blacksmith shops, 7 dry goods stores, 2 express companies, 3 insurance agents, 2 eclectic physicians, about 30 carpenters, a horse-power ferryboat, 3 grain warehouses, 6 alopathic physicians, a lodge of the Iron Hall, a well-fitted opera house, over 2,000 people, 3 extensive saw mills, Franklin Square Library, Knights of Pythias, 3 sewing-machine dealers, Odd Fellows, a stave factory, 18 brick business houses, numerous good boarding houses, a dealer in musical instruments, splendid water at from 25 to 40 feet, wide and handsome graveled streets, a Y.M.C.A., several shippers and buyers of stock, the largest poultry yards in the state, a Debating Society that met weekly, 3 dealers in agricultural machinery, many new buildings in course of erection, several miles of good sidewalks, mostly brick, 2 of the largest hardware stores in Illinois, 3 young people's weekly prayer meetings, scores of pretty, sensible, well-educated young ladies, the Wabash River, navigable at all times of the year,

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

the best streets of any town or city in Southern Illinois, the largest steam brick and tile works in Southern Illinois, 2 railroads, 3 good brick school build-



Brick and Tile Factory

ings, 3 large planing mills, the best-equipped news, book and job printing establishment in Southern Illinois, 6 splendid church buildings, a fine surrounding country that canont be excelled anywhere for corn, wheat, and general farm products."

for corn, wheat, and general farm products."

The "Gay Nineties"—and so they were on the banks of the Wabash. Grayville was a peaceful place, deeply shaded streets and large trees, buggies and carriages rolling leisurely on the wide streets, although an occasional runaway did occur. Grayville, being hilly (and not so much filled in as later), had deep gullies which were spanned by sidewalk board "bridges". Some of these were a block long. The streets were lighted by arc lights, which delighted the children as they played with the used carbon. The streets, unpaved, could be crossed only on planks laid at the corners during winter and spring. The City Hall was at its present location, but had a long hitching rack in front.

The social life was gay. Young people met their friends at the steamboat landing and traveled back and forth by steamboat to visit friends in New Harmony and other river towns. In winter Bonpas Creek



January 1st, 1895

Patty Cooke, Eunice Davis, Adda Williams, Emma Brechner, Chloe Melrose, Margaret Cooke, Jessie Blair, Lizzie Cogan, Florence Melrose, Grace Williams, Hal Spring, Lizzie Brechner, Nell Garett, Amelia Charles.

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

and the big Wabash froze solid, providing excellent skating. Trips were also made on the river by sleigh. Often Indiana farmers drove across the frozen river with team and wagon. From the newspaper of 1893, we learn that an ice blockade in the Wabash lasted forty days.

An Oxford Park tract had been purchased to make a public resort, but this had failed, with the land being transferred back to its original owners, Messrs. Felix and Luke Agneil. The fairground was at the north edge of town. The Grayville Annual Fair, established 1891, was one of the most important in this part of the country. Especially exciting were the horse races, with entries coming from as far as Texas. The women of the churches served excellent meals in dining halls on the fairgrounds.

Many outings were taken upon the Wabash. Boat loads of people went up the river, landed at a sand bar for a day of picnicking and swimming. Whole families and clubs also took camping trips up the river, staying for days at a time, hunting and fishing. S. D. Blair ran a ferry boat at the foot of North Street. From the Aug. 11, 1892, Independent newspaper: "Soon after Capt. Blair's new steamboat 'The S. D. Blair', which has been completed, is inspected, arrangements will be made by the churches of Grayville for an excursion and picnic up the river."



Picnic

The opera houses were still going strong, with comedy and tragedy. They were also used for parties, dances, and dancing classes. The high school commencements were held in the Cooke Opera House.

In 1883 a temperance movement had gained strength, and in 1888 Grayville had voted out liquor. It has been said that by 1890 Grayville had a number of "blind tigers", as the bootleg establishments were called.

Baseball was becoming popular, and games were played with Albion and other nearby towns. Bicycle clubs were popular, too, as were quartets and liter-



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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)



Grayville Baseball Club

Britton, Shelton, Baun, Massberger, Massberger, Wills, Brausa, Bodishbaugh, Standring, Smith.

ary clubs. One of the most exciting days was the annual arrival of the Kickapoo Indian Medicine Show. But perhaps the most thrilling were the political rallies, complete with brass bands and glee clubs. Much visiting was done on the P. D. & E. Railroad on the way to shop in Evansville. As passengers got on at each stop, they sat with friends from other towns and exchanged news until the train arrived in Evansville.



Grayville Waterworks 1913

In 1891 four drays were kept constantly busy on the streets of Grayville. The increasing business of the city demanded it. In 1890 the main water system consisted of private wells. The Council ordered the city to drill several deep public wells. In 1893 these public wells were being drilled in different parts of the city by Brechner and Haunsman.

In 1895, the first lights were installed; also, bridges started over Bonpas and French Creek. In 1892 Grayville had seven churches, and the Independent reports that a band of gypsies were camped near the north side school. It was now only ten hours from Grayville to Chicago. The city had a

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

street sprinkler, called by the newspaper, "the city's great white elephant". It required four horses to pull it filled with water from the river. It cost \$400.00, and would have been more satisfactory had the water supply been located up town.

The businesses just prior to the turn of the century were still many that we have mentioned before. Our town was gradually approaching a crisis, with the disappearance of the timberlands that heretofore were the backbone of our saw mills, lumber firms, and furniture manufacturing. It was during this period that the lumber industry declined and farming become proportionately more important. Carey, Oxman and Ellis are successors to A. Carey and Son. W. F. Baldwin was mayor, with Reese, Blood, Blair, Mathews, Coles, Charles, E. M. Jen-



Baseball Team 1900

Leet, Stallings, Wheatcroft, Charles, Schaich, Hoffmaster, Morris, Coogan, Gilbert

nings, aldermen. A new drug firm was opened by Dr. J. A. Shelton, who purchased the firm of C. R. Hall and continued his practice of medicine. In 1892 Fred Schoenman opened a new jewelry store; J. A. Hoelzle had a harness shop; Maddens, a drug store; Miners, a confectionery; and Harms and Helck, an implement business.

It is interesting to note that for Christmas, 1892, the citizens of Grayville were offered the following items in the local stores: fur muffs, boas and capes, Bowman's; fancy cakes, Eastwood's City Bakery; holiday gifts, Charles, the jeweler; elegant folding beds, rocking horses, and a beautiful line of holiday rugs, George Hall; and Warren, the photographer, would make fifteen photos for the price of a dozen.

The city received a communication from Washington, D. C. notifying them that "the House today

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

adopted the appropriation for Grayville." This was a \$12,000 appropriation to prevent the Wabash River cutting through at Kingdom, thus leaving Grayville high and dry.

Mr. Emmerlich had enlarged his confectionery to an oyster parlor and restaurant, and judging from the social columns of the newspaper, the residents of Grayville must have consumed a phenominal amount of oysters. Mr. Emmerlich also drove a little wagon all over town every morning, from which the housewives could buy a loaf of fresh bread for 5c.

In Nov. 1892, the new South Side School building was completed, and it was reported, "The new heating apparatus gives excellent satisfaction." Wheat was at 60c a bushel, and corn at 37½c. Forty babies out of every 100 died.



Al Kimball

PART V - WORLD WAR I

The peaceful days of the "gay nineties" continued after the turn of the century. Farming was good, the mills were humming, and the future looked rosy. The business and social culture were much the same, with sons taking over for fathers, partners changing businesses, and brothers buying each other out. This era, within the memory of many, is a nostalgic one. Remember the horse races along Main Street? Dame Rumor has it that two of today's prominent matrons, both now living on North Street, raced to an almost photo finish, with the loser having to do extra chores as a result of losing.

In 1913 the Grayville Carnegie Library was established on a lot purchased from W. W. Gray for \$1000.00. Also in 1913 came the flood, with the water rising to the tracks, killing live-stock and leaving many homeless. In September of 1917, the street paving was started. North Street was paved in 1918.

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CARMI, ILLINOIS

ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

The first movie was an open-air theatre and was shown in the early 1900's, in a vacant lot next to Bowman's store. The screen was back on the alley, with the chairs set in rows and a line of boxes down one side. This was run by Morris Boultinghouse.

And then again into this happy community—WAR.

Grayville furnished its quota of men for all branches of the service during World War I. One Grayville soldier, Capt. Francis R. Shelton, participated in six major offensives, was wounded twice and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action. His citation read, in part, "although greatly suffering from a wound caused by a shrapnel bullet, he remained at the head of his company for two more days and succeeded in repulsing an enemy counter-attack".

The Oxford Post No. 696, The American Legion, was organized in Grayville in 1920, with the following charter members: Noland B. Seil, Charles L. Jennings, Francis R. Shelton, John C. Blood, Ernest M. Pritchett, William S. Hallam, Hugh Q. Allison, Herbert R. Prince, Orval E. Robinson, J. Glenn Burroughs, Lucien W. Blair, Palmer C. Stanley, Henry L. McGarvey, S. Earl Rouch, and Charles E. Kuykendall. Later the name of this Legion Post was changed to the James M. Helm Post in honor of Admiral Helm of Grayville.

PART VI – PEACE AND WAR AGAIN

After World War I, events spun along at a dizzy pace for a few years. Grayville had not continued to grow so rapidly as in the previous century, but business was good all over the country, and the so called "roaring twenties" arrived.

Many of the same business houses existed in the town. The river was no longer important, except to a few businesses and to all the children. Of the railroads which had replaced river transportation, Grayville had two. As the absence of timber had led to the decline of the lumber and furniture business, so did the absence of river-boating cut into mercantile shipping and industries like pork-packing and livestock shipping. Farming was now important, and mills and elevators were thriving. Farmers were receiving an all-time high for products in the 20's. There was exceptionally good farming for southern Illinois around Grayville because of the bottom land of the Wabash and Little Wabash.

The population had remained constant, at around 1900, for a good many years. The county maintained goods roads into the rural areas, and in 1925 the first paved highway went through Grayville. In 1929 the stock market crash dealt Grayville a severe blow. The two banks, The First National and the

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

Farmers' National, closed. As everywhere in the country, the economic situation was desperate. If this is history, it is a chapter we all prefer to forget.



1913 Flood

For the next ten years, the merchants struggled to make a comeback. One sign in a downtown store in 1930 read DEPRESSION, with the D E and I de-



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leted to read PRESSON, and "Press On" the citizens did until at the end of the dismal thirties came

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ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH (Continued)

an amazing discovery—oil!! And again Grayville boomed. The population grew rapidly to over 3000, the highest to date. In addition to bringing many new citizens to our town, the discovery of oil brought more money. Homes were improved and new ones built. Merchants' incomes were increased, and the future looked bright—until December 7, 1941. For the sixth time since its beginning, Grayville had to send its young men off to war, and this time some of its young women, too. From 1942 to 1945 the young men and women of Grayville were scattered all over the United States and the whole world. Many were on the high seas, and others in Asia, Europe, Alaska, Australia, and Africa.



First Oil Well Curtis Farm

After World War II the American Legion made it possible for these new veterans to belong to the organization, and they are now carrying on for the World War I veterans. Harold Gorman of near-by Edwards County was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry in action.

PART VII – THE LAST DECADE

Since the end of World War II, Grayville has accomplished much. This past decade since 1945 is so recent, it may not classify as history, but it seems only fitting to pay tribute by mention to some of the present organizations and accomplishments: the Lions' Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the beautiful new school, the new highways, new street lights, new and wider streets, new homes, and particularly a salute to the Tri-State Oil Show. To quote a visiting personage at the 1954 Oil Show, "It seems incredible that so small a town could produce such a tremendous show." Incredible or not, it was made possible by the hard work and cooperation of many, many citizens.

So it has always been in Grayville, on the banks of the Wabash— many ups and down, but always a little farther up than down. So may it always be in the future.

The Chairman of the Historical Committee is very grateful to Janet R. Walker, Edward L. Bartley, Mary S. Richardson and Thelma Blood for their help in making the foregoing possible.

CHARLES L. JENNINGS.

A MEMENTO OF THE CENTENNIAL

When a community undertakes to celebrate its 100th anniversary, and to commemorate the deeds of those who have played a part in its founding and development, nothing is more important than the hearty cooperation and willingness of the public spirited to accept individual and joint responsibility, and to offer full cooperation and sacrifice. Of equal importance is the willingness of the organized groups to lend the committee the constructive force of combined effort, and to these groups and individuals we owe our most humble, deepest, and sincere gratitude for the wonderful effort and cooperation that has made this occasion feasible.

This centennial, we hope, will be one of the mile stones in the history of events in our progress through the corridor of time, and may the future years continue the growth and prosperity of all our undertakings toward making our community a bigger and better place for the future generations to abide.

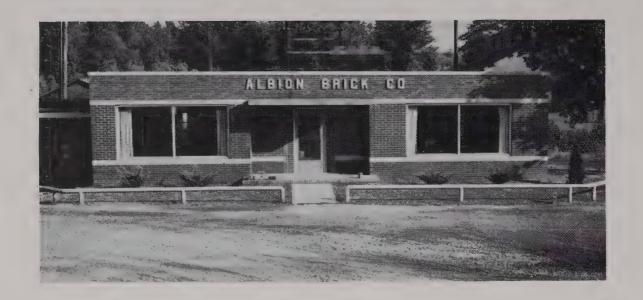
The committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the various organizations, newspapers, business people, city officials and employees, churches, schools, and individuals collectively and individually, who have so graciously and willingly given of their time, effort, and hard work with personal sacrifice to make this celebration a success. It is our hope that we all have received a broader understanding of our own people and their problems, that we may be a better united community for the good of all.

The universal acceptance of the centennial, and our determination to build a more liberal, better and prosperous community, named Grayville, is our motto.

The Committee presents this book to the residents and friends of Grayville, hopeful that it will prove a source of much interest.

"Yesterday is history—tomorrow is mystery."

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.



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